

CLEAN LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. A method of downregulating the inflammatory response in a mammal, said method comprising downregulating the functional activity of activin A or activin B wherein the downregulation is achieved by introducing follistatin into said mammal, and wherein the inflammatory response is a systemic inflammatory response.
2. A method of therapeutically treating a condition characterized by an aberrant, unwanted or otherwise inappropriate inflammatory response in a mammal, said method comprising downregulating the functional activity of activin A or activin B wherein the downregulation is achieved by administering follistatin to said mammal, and wherein the inflammatory response is a systemic inflammatory response.
10. The method according to claim 1 wherein said inflammatory response is acute.
18. The method according to claim 1 wherein said downregulation of the inflammatory response is achieved by modulating the pro-inflammatory cytokine cascade.
19. The method according to claim 18 wherein said pro-inflammatory cytokine cascade corresponds to the expression of TNF α , IL-1 and/or IL-6.
30. The method according to claim 1 wherein said mammal is a human.
61. The method according to claim 1, wherein said follistatin is either follistatin isoform 288 or follistatin isoform 315.
65. The method according to claim 2 wherein said inflammatory response is acute.
68. The method according to claim 2 wherein said downregulation of the functional activity of activin A or activin B is achieved by modulating the pro-inflammatory cytokine cascade.

69. The method according to claim 68 wherein said pro-inflammatory cytokine cascade corresponds to the expression of TNF α , IL-1 and/or IL-6.
70. The method according to claim 2 wherein said mammal is a human.
71. The method according to claim 2, wherein said follistatin is either follistatin isoform 288 or follistatin isoform 315.
72. The method of claim 1, wherein the inflammatory systemic response occurs in the context of septic shock, toxic shock, septicemia, or meningitis.
73. The method of claim 2, wherein the inflammatory systemic response occurs in the context of septic shock, toxic shock, septicemia, or meningitis.
74. A method of downregulating the inflammatory response in a mammal, said method comprising downregulating the functional activity of activin A or activin B wherein the downregulation is achieved by introducing follistatin into said mammal, and wherein the inflammatory response occurs in the context of septic shock, toxic shock, septicemia, meningitis, organ reperfusion, lung transplantation, traumatic brain injury, inflammatory bowel disease, severe acute respiratory distress syndrome or asthma.
75. A method of therapeutically treating a condition characterized by an aberrant, unwanted or otherwise inappropriate inflammatory response in a mammal, said method comprising downregulating the functional activity of activin A or activin B wherein the downregulation is achieved by administering follistatin to said mammal, and wherein the inflammatory response occurs in the context of septic shock, toxic shock, septicemia, meningitis, organ reperfusion, lung transplantation, traumatic brain injury, inflammatory bowel disease, severe acute respiratory distress syndrome or asthma.
76. A method of downregulating the inflammatory response in a mammal, said method comprising downregulating the functional activity of activin A or activin B wherein the downregulation is achieved by introducing follistatin isoform 288 or follistatin isoform 315 into

said mammal, and wherein the inflammatory response occurs in the context of septic shock, toxic shock, septicaemia, meningitis, organ reperfusion, lung transplantation, traumatic brain injury, inflammatory bowel disease, severe acute respiratory distress syndrome or asthma.

77. A method of therapeutically treating a condition characterized by an aberrant, unwanted or otherwise inappropriate inflammatory response in a mammal, said method comprising downregulating the functional activity of activin A or activin B wherein the downregulation is achieved by administering follistatin isoform 288 or follistatin isoform 315 to said mammal, and wherein the inflammatory response occurs in the context of septic shock, toxic shock, septicaemia, meningitis, organ reperfusion, lung transplantation, traumatic brain injury, inflammatory bowel disease, severe acute respiratory distress syndrome or asthma.

78. A method of downregulating the inflammatory response in a mammal, said method comprising downregulating the functional activity of activin A or activin B wherein the downregulation is achieved by introducing follistatin into said mammal, and wherein the inflammatory response is a nonfibrotic inflammatory response.